

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the official action mailed March 17, 2008. Claims 1-11 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-11 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10 have been amended, and claims 9 and 11 have been canceled. Claims 1-8 and 10 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-8 and 10 are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Inoue (US Patent 7,123,813).

Claims 5, 6, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Toshiya et al. (JP 2001-160256).

Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of DeFreese et al. (US Patent 6,493,876).

Claims 9 and 11 have been canceled, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 7, and 10) are patentable over Inoue, Toshiya, and DeFreese (collectively "the cited references").

Applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 7 is directed toward a recording apparatus and a recording reservation processing method. Each of the claims recites that "when the time slot corresponding to [a] recording reservation conflicts with the time slots of previously made recording reservations because none of [] first through n-th recording

means is available for the time slot corresponding to said recording reservation, [a] user is presented with information identifying the content of each previously made recording reservation that conflicts with said recording reservation." Supporting disclosure can be found in the specification at, for example, Fig. 5.

None of the cited references discloses the recitation quoted from claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-6 and 8 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with independent claims 1 and 7.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent claim 10 is directed toward a recording reservation processing method. The claim recites "switching automatically a recording reservation made to any one of [a] recording means to another recording means when the time slot corresponding to said recording reservation conflicts with a time slot of a previously made recording reservation for recording onto said another recording means, said previously made recording reservation is canceled, and said recording reservation does not conflict with any other previously made recording reservation for recording to said another recording means." Supporting disclosure can be found in the specification at, for example, page 36, line 20 - page 40, line 4.

None of the cited references discloses the recitation quoted from claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 10 is patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

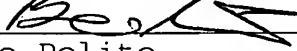
Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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